

Message Text

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R 200117Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
SECDEF
DIRNSA

S E C R E T STATE 259321

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS:PFOR, PINR, MARR, CY, UK, US

SUBJECT:BRITISH TENURE IN CYPRUS BASES

REF: (A) NICOSIA 3097; (B) LONDON 16374

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REFTEL REPORTS ON POSSIBLE UK
CONSIDERATION OF POST-1979 OPTIONS RE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS
(SBA) IN CYPRUS.

2. SUBJECT OF SBA'S WAS RAISED BY SECDEF DURING OCTOBER 14
DISCUSSION WITH MULLEY. LATTER SAID THEY REALIZED THEY
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COULD NOT PULL OUT NOW BUT, IF THERE IS A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT,

THEY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM SBA'S IN ORDER TO FREE RESOURCES FOR BAOR.

3. WE WOULD PREFER THAT AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD NOT RAISE SUBJECT WHEN IN LONDON OCTOBER 26. WE TEND TO FEEL THAT FURTHER EXPRESSIONS OF U.S. INTEREST IN INTERNAL PRELIMINARY HMG REVIEW OF FUTURE SBA STATUS MAY ENCOURAGE BRITISH TO ASSUME THAT U.S. MIGHT BE PREPARED TO FUND SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF SBA COSTS. IN ADDITION TO MOD'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF BUDGETARY BURDEN, BRITISH WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANCE OF SBA'S IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL CYPRUS TERRITORIAL SITUATION. MULLEY COMMENT NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE

INDICATES BRITISH FULLY AWARE OF THESE RAMIFICATIONS. WE WOULD THUS PREFER FOR TIME BEING ALLOW HMG TO SORT OUT VARIOUS ASPECTS INTERNALLY BEFORE WE MAKE FURTHER APPROACH.

4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO WANT TO UNDERTAKE CAREFUL REVIEW OURSELVES IN DUE COURSE.

ROBINSON

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